

SITUATION REPORT NO. 21
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 15, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: As flood fighters repair boils on levees, the Red River of the North continues to swell, requiring the National Weather Service to upgrade predicted crests for Wahpeton, Fargo and Grand Forks. Overland flooding and increased inflows from tributaries prompted the revised forecasts. The Weather Service expects the river to crest a second time at Wahpeton at 18.5 feet to 19.5 feet by late April 15, which is one foot to 1 ½ feet higher than earlier predictions. The river is expected to remain at that level through April 17. Downstream at Fargo, the Red River continues to rise above this century's flood-of-record level of 37.3 feet. Forecasts call for the river to rise by one-half to three-quarters of a foot to 38 feet. The river's crest is expected to reach Grand Forks on April 19, where it could remain at 50 feet for four days, at a level one foot higher than earlier predictions. Farther downstream, the Red River is beginning to flow out of its banks in Walsh County, where officials have closed a county road that runs parallel to the river. The status of North Dakota rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

Station	Flood 4/15/97 Stage	24-hr Stage Difference	Flood of Record
<u>Red River</u>			
Wahpeton	10 ft.	19 ft. +1.12 ft.	19.2 ft.
Hickson	30 ft.	37.07 ft. +0.74 ft.	No record
Fargo	17 ft.	37.88 ft. +0.41 ft.	37.3 ft.
Halstad, MN	24 ft.	(Not available)	39 ft.
East Grand Forks	28 ft.	45.28 ft. +1.61 ft.	48.8 ft.
Oslo, MN	28 ft.	(Not available)	38.6 ft.
Drayton	32 ft.	35.33 ft. +1.30 ft.	43.7 ft.
<u>Wild Rice</u>			
Abercrombie	10 ft.	24.25 ft. +1.95 ft.	24.6 ft.

Station	Flood 4/15/97		24-hr	Flood of
	Stage	Stage	Difference	Record
<u>Maple River</u>				
Enderlin	6 ft.	11.91 ft.	+1.41 ft.	15.4 ft.
<u>Sheyenne River</u>				
Cooperstown 12 ft.		17.42 ft.	+0.23 ft.	18.69 ft.
Lisbon	11 ft.	14.08 ft.	+1.55 ft.	19 ft.
Kindred	16 ft.	21.43 ft.	-0.05 ft.	21.7 ft.
<u>Sheyenne Diversion</u>				
Horace	23 ft.	(Not available)		No record
West Fargo	16.5 ft.	22.45 ft.	-0.41 ft.	21.5 ft.
Harwood	884 ft.	891.81 ft.	+0.13 ft.	890.70 ft.
<u>Souris River</u>				
Bantry	11 ft.	12.86 ft.	-0.10 ft.	14.6 ft.
Westhope	10 ft.	11.12 ft.	+0.20 ft.	19.2 ft.

In Richland County, a temporary dike was constructed around Wahpeton's airport in an attempt to keep flood waters from entering the south side of the city. Four rural homesteads, south of Fairmount, were inundated with water on April 13. Residents were relocated to homes of friends or family.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plans to gradually increase releases this week from the Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs. The releases, presently at 1,550 cfs, will be increased 50 cfs a day until the USACE reaches its target release of 1,800 cfs on April 20. The James River remains slightly less than one-half foot under its 12-foot flood stage. The Weather Service expects the river to remain nearly steady at that level.

The Weather Service has issued a flood warning for Apple Creek in Burleigh County, where the creek is at 15.6 feet at Menoken; flood stage is 15 feet. The creek is expected to crest at 16 feet late April 15.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the N.D. Department of Agriculture continue to receive reports that calves are suffering from dehydration and weight loss and are aborting calves. Power outages had prevented operation of electrical pumps used to supply water to livestock. Logan County officials, who participated in an aerial surveillance during the April 12-13 weekend, have determined that more than 150 head of cattle drowned in Beaver Creek.

During the recent blizzard, high winds damaged a tin roof of a Jamestown business and a grain elevator at Eldridge, dispersing 3,000 bushels of grain south of the elevator. Ten inches of snow that fell during the blizzard pushed the city of Jamestown over its all-time cumulative snow fall record. Snowfall for the 1996-97 winter totals 98.8 inches. The previous record, set in 1949-1950, had been 96.6 inches.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Grand Forks, volunteers have filled more than 1.1 million sandbags in preparation for the Red River's crest, which is predicted to reach the city by April 19. Volunteer coordinators report that approximately 12,000 volunteers assisted with efforts during the April 6-12 week. The Grand Forks YMCA is providing free child care to flood-fight volunteers. The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross have secured a Coca-Cola Corp. concession trailer, which they are operating jointly at the sandbag production site in Grand Forks. The Red Cross has assigned 220 staff members to provide disaster relief for the Red River Valley.

Wahpeton residents have received a shipment of cleaning, supplies, toys and food, donated by Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Target stores in St. Paul, MN. At the Richland County EOC, volunteers continue to answer the disaster hotline, which is staffed from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Kidder Senior Center provided food, and the Trinity Lutheran Church loaned 38 quilts to storm evacuees housed at Golden Manor in Steele. Volunteers transported elderly residents to the manor after the recent blizzard knocked power out throughout the county.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. National Guard continues efforts to support communities involved with flood preparedness and response efforts. Missions include: furnishing and operating generators to power rural water and well systems, and lift stations; traffic control in flooded areas; transportation for utilities attempting to locate downed power poles; hauling power poles for rural electric cooperatives; evacuation of North Dakotans from flooded areas; providing equipment to raise dikes and fill sandbags; and, supporting aerial surveillance of flood-damaged areas. The National Guard has 16 missions in progress, two pending missions and has completed 83 missions. On April 15, 215 Army Guard and Air Guard members were participating in missions. The National Guard has had a total of 481 personnel who have been on State Active Duty since flood-fight operations began.

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted three rescue missions on April 14 in the Red River Valley. The National Guard assisted the Coast Guard during the evacuation of two adults, three children and a dog, who were rescued near the Wild Rice River. During a second rescue mission, the Coast Guard evacuated two sightseers from a stalled vehicle located south of Horace. The third mission required Coast Guard members to assist two adults and four children, who were stranded by flood waters.

The State/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Field Office (DFO) opened April 14 at 600 South Second Street in Bismarck. The mailing address is P.O. Box 6045, Bismarck, ND 58506.

USACE Omaha District officials were meeting with contractors early April 15 to discuss construction of seven sections of levee along the James River. The one- to three-foot levees are being constructed in response to plans to increase releases from the Jamestown and

Pipestem Dams.

The USACE St. Paul District reported that construction of a levee at Grafton is 90 percent complete, and one levee in Pembina is 100 percent and a second is 40 percent complete.

The N.D. State Water Commission evaluated water levels and conditions of lake systems in south central North Dakota during a surveillance flight on April 14. The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol provided the air crew and plane for the flight.

In preparation for flooding, Walsh County crews have delivered another 42 yards of sand to residents living along the Red River. County employees also are clearing ice- and snow-plugged culverts and drains.

The Cass County Extension Agent has prepared information addressing safety questions resulting from the flood and recent blizzard. These packets have been shared with members of the Cass County Community Response Committee.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages are able to apply for all individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director